First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"

http://www.freetowrite.com/contestededen/page/40/

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

September 27, 2015 10:00 am

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Song of the Soul"** **81 ES** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Donna Eyster

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Donna Eyster

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Anthem** **"Jesus Loves Me"** **FCC Choir**

Call to Worship (Unison) Donna Eyster

One: Come one and all to meet God here.
Let all who are suffering find hope in this place.
Many: We have come that God might raise us up.
God hear our prayers and answer us.
One: Come together to sing songs of praise to God.
Give thanks for God's wondrous deeds.
Many: God's glory abides in this place of worship.
God's presence and assistance is real.
God equips us to be helpful to one another.
Then it is off to work we go.
Amen. **– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **Psalms 19:7-14** Donna Eyster

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **James 5:13-20** Carol Hall

Sermon **"It Just Takes Living"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works"** **3 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time.
Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Our Father, who are in this our land,
may your name be blessed
in our incessant search for justice and peace.
May your kingdom come for those who have for centuries,
awaited life with dignity.
May your will be done on earth and in heaven,
and in the church of Central America,
a church on the side of the poor.
Give us today our daily bread to build a new society.
Forgive us our trespasses,
do not let us fall into the temptation of believing ourselves already new.
And deliver us from the evil of war,
and from the evil of forgetting that our lives and life of this country are in your hands.
Amen.

– Lord's Prayer as written in Central America

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) — Carol Hall

For those who are visitors do not feel you must give, let this service be our gift to you & your presence be your gift to us.

As we provide these offerings, Lord, hear our prayers and show us how to be at peace with one another and faithful to you. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory — Steve McGhee

*Doxology — "Take My Gifts" — 562 NCH

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

*Prayer of Dedication *(Unison)* — Donna Eyster

We dedicate ourselves and our offerings to the work of your church. For those who are sick, for those who are suffering, for those who are grieving or lost or addicted – we offer hope and acts of caring. We stand with all who face discrimination, oppression, and confusion, seeking to work with them for justice and a meaningful existence. As you always accept us and welcome us, strengthen us to reach out and include all of your children in this family of mutuality, self-revelation, and growing love. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"My Life Flows on in Endless Song"** **476 NCH**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

One: God sends us out with courage to face life's evils.
We have insight to name the enemies we encounter.
Many: We are called to care in an uncaring world.
We are people who encounter brothers and sisters.
One: God is our greatest supporter.
Christ is our greatest teacher.
Many: God is with us wherever we go.
The maker of heaven and earth cares for us. Amen.

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: www.ypsiucc.com

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: September 27th	Next Sunday: October 4th
Usher	Jamie Goldsmith	Marty Kleino
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Donna Eyster	Kelsie Molter
Worship Set-up	Margaret Harner	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Hunter Turner	Lyle Molter
Friendship Time	Melanie Harner	Patty Sherwood
Sunday School		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Council meeting will be held October 5th at 4:30 pm. All are welcome.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choir rehearsal are Tuesdays at 6:00 PM Come, join the fun and try it out. We have a great time. Don't need to read music or have trained voice. There will be no rehearsal on Tuesday, September 29, 2015

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

NEW ADDRESS: Lorraine Sayles' new address; 2139 Georgetown Blvd., Ann Arbor, 48105. Her phone number is now the same as always (734) 483-3849.
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IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.
See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!! Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.
Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

About this week's cover photo: http://www.freetowrite.com/contestededen/page/40/

The Dream of Cultural Unity

Kemit Amenophis's *We The People* celebrates the dream of people on Earth living together in peace. This painting found on Haight street in San Francisco represents the diverse culture that exists in California, for California "has long been a crossroads and destination for people coming from many places"(Lipsitz 19). California is a testament to this message, for it has managed to successfully create a hybrid culture made up of the descendents of people from almost every country.Amenophis acknowledges the diversity among us by painting the people in clothes, playing instruments, and doingdances that represent the culture that they are identified with, but he paints them in a way that looks like they are dancing and playing their instruments together. Amenophis does this to make a connection between similarities that exist even in our differences. This suggests that despite our cosmetic variations all humans are still similar enough to be compatible. Amenophis recognizes that even though the way the people dance and the music they listen to look and sound different, the function of doing these things and our reasons for

participating in these rituals are the same in every country. Strong evidence supporting the idea that the differences people fight about are merely petty ones. The faint rainbow in the back, then the slightly brighter one in the middle, and the brightest one in the front represents how the potential for peaceful coexistence is becoming stronger as time goes on. California has become a model for how to make the dream of cultural unity a reality.

Works Cited

Amenophis,Kemit: "*We The People*".1994.Web.sfmuralarts. 5 Oct 2011 Lipsitz,George."Music,

Migration, and Myth:The California Connection. Reading California: Art Image and Identity:1900-2000.Eds. Stephanie Barron,Sheri Bernstein, and Ilene Susa Fort. Berkely: University of California Press, 2000. 153-170, print.

Posted by Brandon Arnold on 10/11/2011 at 01:03 PM | Permalink